

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,639

Applicant(s)

WARNER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Lars A Olson

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09242004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The docking system for a marine vessel with a V-shaped bow as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a docking system that is comprised of a trailer platform with a plurality of support surfaces that interface with a hull of said vessel, oppositely disposed goalposts that are attached to said trailer platform in order to interface with gunwales of said vessel for guiding said vessel onto said trailer platform, an elastic U-shaped harness that is attached to opposite sides of said trailer platform and positioned to traverse the path of said vessel while it is docked upon said trailer platform, stretchable cords that are strung from said goalposts to said harness, and a latch that is attached to the bow of said vessel, where said latch is disposed in order to snag said harness at a location along the length of said harness, said harness elastically elongates and retracts in order to absorb kinetic energy of said vessel and arrest the motion of said vessel upon docking with said trailer platform, and said latch is further comprised of a hook and a spring-biased, weighted, rotatable cam that moves to an open position when said harness contacts said cam, and moves to a closed and latched position when said harness moves past said cam and enters said hook.
3. The prior art as disclosed by Poppell (US 4,995,629) shows the use of a boat hull latching device for securing the hull of a boat to a trailer by means of a bow stop bar and a latch-catch member with a recess for receiving said bow stop bar, where said

latch-catch member is mounted to the bow of said boat. Hawkins et al. (US 4,895,387) and Whiteley, Jr. (US 3,632,138) also disclose boat hull latching devices that utilize a bow stop bar and a latch member that catches said stop bar when a boat is docked onto a trailer platform. Mohan (US 5,380,143) discloses a boat trailer that is fitted with a pair of oppositely disposed goalposts for guiding a boat onto said boat trailer while docking. Pontani (US 3,540,610) discloses a boat trailer with a pair of U-shaped elastic harnesses that are attached to opposite sides of said trailer for supporting a boat while docked on said trailer. However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a docking system for a marine vessel with a V-shaped bow, said docking system being comprised of a trailer platform with a plurality of support surfaces that interface with a hull of said vessel, oppositely disposed goalposts that are attached to said trailer platform in order to interface with gunwales of said vessel for guiding said vessel onto said trailer platform, an elastic U-shaped harness that is attached to opposite sides of said trailer platform and positioned to traverse the path of said vessel while it is docked upon said trailer platform, stretchable cords that are strung from said goalposts to said harness, and a latch that is attached to the bow of said vessel, where said latch is disposed in order to snag said harness at a location along the length of said harness, said harness elastically elongates and retracts in order to absorb kinetic energy of said vessel and arrest the motion of said vessel upon docking with said trailer platform, and said latch is further comprised of a hook and a spring-biased, weighted, rotatable cam that moves to an open position when said harness contacts said cam, and moves to a

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closed and latched position when said harness moves past said cam and enters said hook.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

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January 24, 2005


S. JOSEPH MORANO
SUPERVISOR/EXAMINER
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